

instances of shortage of some branded formulations, in some localised areas, for which therapeutic equivalents were usually available.

Prices of Life Saving Drugs

2281. SSHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether prices of life saving drugs have gone up by 30 per cent during the last one year; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to control the prices of those drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The figures in regard to movement of the wholesale price index for drugs and medicines during the year 1990-91 is 149.6 as compared to 140.4 in the year 1989-90, with base year 1981-82 = 100.

Recently, medicines based on imported inputs have registered comparatively higher price increases due to exchange rate adjustment. However, out of about 200 formulations whose prices have been revised upwards after exchange rate adjustment, only 39 formulations have shown increase of 20% or more.

(b) In a situation of rising cost of inputs, corresponding increase in the prices of medicines is unavoidable. The prices of all the scheduled formulations are fixed in accordance with a formula and fixed norms, after careful scrutiny in order to keep adequate check on the prices of these medicines as

Post Harvest Losses

2282. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made to assess the value of foodgrains lost after harvest;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the modern techniques adopted to provide efficient storage management at farm level to prevent food grains losses and results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) (a) to (c). No study as such has been conducted to assess the post harvest foodgrain losses. To minimise such losses, however, the following main techniques have been developed and propagated through Save Grain campaign:—

- (i) Development of several designs of metallic bins and no-metallic storage structures;
- (ii) Development of a fumigant mixture viz. EDB plus for insect control;
- (iii) Standardisation of dosages of pesticides such as Aluminum Phosphide, Ethylene Dibromide Malathion and DDVP;
- (iv) Testing and standardisation of dosages of several formulation of rodenticides;
- (v) Development of number of codes of practices for safe storage of foodgrains;
- (vi) Training of farmers, village level workers etc. in scientific storage of foodgrains;
- (vii) Publicity and dissemination of information through radio talks, TV programmes, press reports exhibitions, film/slide shows etc.

A statement indicating main achievements of Save Grain Campaign is given below